THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST

RED LION SQUARE
HOLBORN, W.C.

PLEASE TAKE AND SPARE A MOMENT TO READ : THEN KINDLY PASS IT ON

THE RESTORATION OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1.

That, in the course of over fifty years, the powerful constituents of London atmosphere should cause damage and deterioration to stone and brick is scarcely surprising. For some years now, we have been setting aside, against the day when the Restoration work must be undertaken, such small sums as we could spare from the meagre sources of the ordinary Church Income.

That day has now dawned. The Parochial Church Council has received a full report from the Surveyor—Mr. J. M. Sheppard, F.R.I.B.A., P.A.S.I., of Bedford Place, Bloomsbury—on the work that must now be put in hand.

The well-known Contractors, Messrs. F. & H. F. Higgs, Ltd., of Herne Hill, have, under the Surveyor's direction, carried out an inspection of the exterior of the Church, and the Report sets out, as far as possible, the nature of the work necessary to restore and preserve the Building :—

> "All brickwork to be thoroughly cleaned; joints, where defective, to be replaced; bricks with soft or defective faces to be replaced, in all cases to match existing sound work. Point all leadwork and lead wedge where necessary; replace with new, defective angle fillets. Overhaul the roofs, re-hanging all displaced slates or tiles providing new ones where necessary; renewing defective edging and hips, including repointing the whole of the last. Overhaul and re-run all defective fillets, gutters and down pipes—including the Clergy House—replacing defective lengths and stopping leaky joints, make good all cracked asphalte flats. Renew lead glazing and iron work to the West Window, replacing all broken glass and defective putty. Walls in the areas to be re-rendered, wherever bulged or badly cracked, with Portland cement and sand; renew cement and sand skirting

to piers in area and external wall at the West end of the Church; repaint with two coats, a third where necessary, all present paintwork; re-lime white walls where now so done.

"A definite sub-estimate of £450 is included, from Messrs. A. Dreyfus Ltd., of Bishopsgate, E.C., for the complete renovation of all defective stonework, to its original form, with Tabard's Patent Metallic Stone coated with Dreserva Liquid."

The Contractors' approximate estimate for the above work is £1,500. A specimen of Tabard's Metallic Stone work is to be seen in the Church, the interior side of the archway of the door leading to the Organ Loft having been built of this material by Messrs. Dreyfus about a year ago. A specimen of external work with this material is to be seen in the whole of the front, including the pillars of the Porch, of St. Peter's, Eaton Square, which was treated by Messrs. Dreyfus, forty-seven years ago.

As the Surveyor points out, it is obviously impossible to give anything approaching an exact estimate, for until the work is begun the full extent of the damage and of the difficulties to be encountered cannot be ascertained. Provision of necessary scaffolding, competent supervision and workmen, necessary plant, protection of property and of the public, etc., is allowed for by the Contractors, who, while insisting that the figure of £1,500 cannot be taken as the outside cost, believe that this amount will be sufficient to pay for the work.

The Contractors have agreed to undertake the work on condition that payment is made on the basis of actual cost price plus 5% establishment charges and 10% profit, —terms which the Surveyor considers to be perfectly fair and reasonable, under the circumstances, and which have been accepted. The Contractors are prepared to begin work at once, but, on the Surveyor's recommendation, it has been decided to postpone beginning the work until the Spring when the weather should be more suitable for external work.

The question of inviting other Contractors to tender for the work has been fully considered—a principle with which the Surveyor entirely agreed—but in view of the impossibility of ascertaining what the work of restoration involves until the work is begun, it was felt that anything approaching a definite quotation—even if one were obtainable—would be unsatisfactory; either the work would suffer, or a heavier price would be paid for work actually completed. Mr. Sheppard has undertaken to direct the work as it proceeds, and his personal interest may be gauged from the fact that he has expressed his willingness to accept a fee on a 5% basis only instead of the usual scale of fees.

Incidental payments, such as the Surveyor's fee, dusting—by vacuum process—the interior of the Church (which is necessary for preservation purposes), cost of the Appeal, etc., are, of course, to be met over and above the amount payable to the Contractors. We must, therefore, reckon on a total expenditure of something approaching £2,000, of which at the end of 1930 we had £409 5s. 3d., in hand. We must, therefore, raise, before the end of 1931, not less than £1,500 in order to ensure the Church being handed on to those who come after us, in a thoroughly sound condition.

Donations, or regular subscriptions extending over six months, for any amount, no matter how small, will be thankfully received by the Vicar, or by the Churchwardens, St. John's Clergy House, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "St. John's, Red Lion Square, Restoration A/c," and crossed "Hoare & Co."

N. B. PAGE, *Vicar.*

C. J. M. COLEMAN
E. P. MORIARTY } *Churchwardens.*

January 8th, 1931.

Printed by J. J. Andron, 77, Compton Street, E.C.